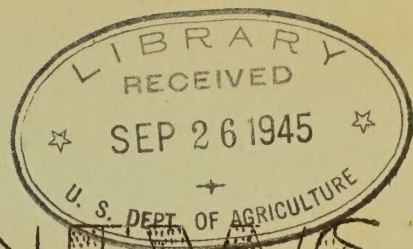


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CONFERENCE NEWS

WESTERN REGION

1941 Conference

Spokane, Wash. January 7, 1941

No. 2



WAKE UP, FELLOW! THAT'S NO DREAM

T O D A Y ' S C O N F E R E N C E P R O G R A M

General Session - Marie Antoinette Room

- 9:00 a.m. - School house meeting.
11:00 a.m. - How various Governmental agencies may help meet individual farmer's problems?
11:45 a.m. - Progress reports of departmental committees.
1:30 p.m. - Departmental sessions.

Marketing and Loan Committee - Tent "A".
Program Operations Committee - Elizabethan B & C.
Economics and Insurance Committee - Elizabethan D & E.
Administrative and Fiscal Committee - Tent "B".
Educational Committee - Tent "C".

4:30 p.m. - Special problems committee - "Functions and Responsibilities of Farmer Fieldmen" - Hall of Doges.

6:30 p.m. - Dinner (\$1.25 per plate) - Marie Antoinette Room.

"O U R B I G J O B N O W I S . . ."

Highlights in the opening remarks by Director Dodd yesterday:

"We're ahead in a strictly administrative way. But we haven't gotten our story across. We haven't been giving enough time to the 'why' and the 'wherefore'."

"Any farmer who thinks this is a relief program had better get that out of his head. The program is giving the farmer the power to work out his own solutions to his problems and to do something about the things that took away his income and his soil."

"The most important thing to tell a farmer is not what his payment is going to be, but what he faces if he doesn't cooperate with his neighbor."

"With present wheat prospects it looks like we will wind up next year with a half billion bushel surplus in our own back yard. That's enough to supply the whole world market."

"If marketing quotas are not sustained in a referendum -- no loans. To offset the fact that more than half the wheat producers are east of the Mississippi, Western States will have to go a lot better than 66 and 2/3 percent for quotas in order to carry."

"When the defense program got under way, agriculture was better prepared than any other industry...We wouldn't be doing our duty if we didn't make every effort to keep agriculture in that front line."

"Our big job is to show our people what they are up against. Let's be honest with the wheat man. Our people may have to make some sacrifices to help South America. As Chester Davis said, you can't be friends with South America in a military way and be enemies in an economic way."

"In Congress we have some friends and some enemies. . . . It was a hard fight all last year to keep AAA on an even keel."

"Committeemen are going to have to drive harder than ever from now on to hold the line for agriculture. . . . If we slip this time and go back to 25-cent wheat and 10-cent corn, I don't know whether we can ever get back to an agriculture that will be anything like what we have known."

"If there are any faint-hearted people here or in the counties who are not ready to face the hard job ahead and do everything in their power to take this story to the farmers, it might be a pretty good idea if they handed in their resignations now, because if they hang around and get in the way they're liable to get stepped on and bruised up."

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T S

MARKETING AND LOAN COMMITTEE.— Proposed extensive resealing of wheat now under loan as a step in meeting effects of world wheat situation. Favored utilization of farm storage for the job, "Farmers should be willing to build this storage as a part of their contribution to this loan program that has meant so much to the wheat grower." Farm storage, it was pointed out, was one of the needs of a long-time commodity loan program. Details for handling loans, with special attention to resealing of 1939 and 1940 wheat, was discussed.

PROGRAM OPERATIONS.— Handbooks ready before the program year begins; parity payments out earlier; the national conference to be held early in June instead of July are some of the recommendations this committee will make. Representing the administrator's office, W. A. Minor explained how rates of payment were determined. Arguments waxed warm when some contenders insisted that State committees have full authority to determine practices. Conclusions were that too great variations between States would complicate rather than alleviate the present situation. In a sub-committee on procedure, 1941 parity and ACP forms were discussed.

ECONOMICS AND INSURANCE.— 1942 yield and rate procedure discussed as well as methods of correlating 1940 production to the 1942 estimated yield. The group will divide into two sub-committees this afternoon. One will consider wheat allotment procedure, listing sheets, reports, and range statistics. The other will discuss crop insurance, especially loss adjustment procedure, presentation of the program, and loans on indemnity wheat.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL.— Divided into two groups. Questions discussed by the group working on county problems were : (1) paying of more than 3 county committeemen for one day. This discussion was closed when it was found that GAO would suspend the account when more than three claims for one day was submitted, (2) a short discussion of filing systems was begun and a committee of three was appointed to inspect the Idaho system and report to the sub-committee at the next session, (3) two motions were made: one to pay county association employees per diem when out of the county whenever prior approval of State committee is obtained and the other to make an effort to have the Washington office to relieve the county and State offices of all material relating to past programs.

The committee working on State office problems recommends: (1) that the Washington office prepare a compilation of current travel information and of reimbursement vouchers, and (2) also, a compilation of current information on the preparation of purchase vouchers.

EDUCATIONAL.— Talk ranged from fundamentals like " Abundance—Conservation—Parity" to turkey-shoot trimmings for farmer meetings. Conclusion No. 1: Not many are in complete agreement on program objectives and aims as such. Conclusion No. 2: County and community committeemen offer the greatest opportunity for improving educational work. A summing up of the variety of expressions that were aired: "If it's divine discontent we need to pave the way for improvement, we're certainly on the way. But I'm reminded of H. G. Wells' classification of folks—cheaters, submitters, and fighters. I think we've got a bunch of fighters here. We're all out to learn how to be better, smarter fighters and to use the program as a tool for meeting the real problems of today."

W E L C O M E V I S I T O R S

We're glad to have withus:

Carl C. Farrington, Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation	C. A. Colling, New Jersey State Com.
LeRoy K. Smith, Manager, FCIC	Geo. D. Bradley, North Central Division
B. R. Stauber, BAE, Land Use	Wm. C. MacArthur, Commodity Credit
Fred C. Jans, Extension Service	Chas. Lewis, Assistant Director East Central Division
Earl C. Corey, C. C. C.	Fred Merrifield, Wichita, F. C. A.
Dr. H. B. Boyd, Director, Special Programs Division	Paul Stewart, Omaha, F. C. A.
Jake Schoonover, Solicitor's Office	Ralph Moyer, Aerial Photography
W. A. Minor, Assistant to Administrator	Paul Preston, Properties and Finance
Dr. Tom L. Ayers, Southern Division	R. E. Brown, President, Spokane Land Bank

(More Tomorrow)

A V E R S E F O R T O D A Y

T here once was a farmer named Grey,
Whose land started blowing away.
When he asked how to stop it,
They told him "Strip crop it."
So he did. What he's got now ain't hay. (Or is it?)

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APPENDIX

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